



Town of
Westford
Massachusetts

Town Manager's Newsletter

October 2015



Jodi Ross,
Town
Manager

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www.westfordma.gov/tm

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October is
Breast Cancer
Awareness
Month



Harvest Fair
Friday and Saturday
Oct. 23th and 24th
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Town Brush Chipping
Saturday, Oct. 17th
10:30AM to 4:30PM
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Reminder:
Town Meeting is
Monday, October 19th



Watch Meetings
Online
westford CAT
community access television
www.westfordcat.org

Dear Westford residents,

Our October 19th Special Town Meeting will be held at 7:30 p.m. in the Abbot School gymnasium. The Timeline and Warrant are available at the following link: [STM 2015](#). Below is a summary of the motions in the warrant: **Article 1:** That the Town appropriate from Free Cash \$9,938.87 to pay National Grid unpaid bills from a prior Fiscal Year for services incurred for street lights.

Article 2: Fiscal year 2016 budget adjustments: That the Town raise and appropriate \$179,000 in order to supplement the following Fiscal Year 2016 Operating Budgets: \$125,000 into Legal Expenses to continue to fund litigation related to the proposed asphalt plant, and \$54,000 into Technology Expenses to fund Microsoft licensing requirements. Also, reduce the following FY16 Operating Budgets by \$625,000 to maintain a balanced budget as follows:

| | | |
|-----|---------------------------|-----------|
| 300 | Westford Public Schools | \$260,000 |
| 424 | Street light Expenses | \$ 15,000 |
| 543 | Veterans Services | \$ 20,000 |
| 710 | Non-Excluded Debt Service | \$330,000 |

and to reduce the Water Enterprise FY16 Operating Expense Budget by the sum of \$20,000.

Article 3: Will be dismissed. **Article 4:** To see if the Town will appropriate \$1M from Free Cash to into our Stabilization Fund, in order to earn a higher interest rate. **Article 5:** To be dismissed as we purchased the trailers with a grant. **Article 6:** To see if the Town will transfer the following available funds to reduce the net amount to be raised by taxes for Fiscal Year 2016: \$36,662.66 from Fund Balance Designated for Debt Exclusion Reduction and \$50,000.00 from Ambulance Enterprise Retained Earnings. **Article 7:** That the Town fund the recommendations of the Westford Community Preservation Committee, by appropriating \$378,250 for historic preservation or rehabilitation proposed at 12 North Main Street, with the town conveying an historical preservation restriction on the property. **Article 8:** This is a citizens' petition asking the Town to vote to incorporate a five foot wide sidewalk, compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act, along one side of Main Street for the entire length of Main Street between Depot Street and Tadmuck Road, while the Town is replacing the Main Street water main and reconstructing the street. **Article 9:** This was to see if the Town would authorize the Board of Selectmen to acquire by gift an easement, for general municipal purposes, for the site of the Westford Knight carving and related signage and enhancements, upon a portion of the property located at 17 Depot Street, however I have been informed this may be dismissed. **Article 10:** To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to acquire by gift from David A. Guthrie and Christopher H. Finneral, for general municipal purposes, a vacant parcel of land containing 19.485 acres, and that the Town further vote to transfer the care, control and custody of said property from the Board of Selectmen to the Conservation Commission, to be held pursuant to Chapter 40, Section 8C.

(continued on next page)

WWW.WESTFORDMA.GOV

Article 11: To see if the Town will accept the layout of Aldrich Lane off Chamberlain Road as a Town public way pursuant to [Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 82](#).

The Selectmen have also approved the Timeline for the 2016 Annual Town Meeting, to be held on Saturday, April 2, 2016 at 10:00 a.m. in the Abbot School gymnasium, which is available here: [ATM 2016](#).

The Department of Public Utilities approved our request to establish a Municipal Electricity Aggregation. In the coming weeks more information will be made available at Town Hall, on the town's website, on social media accounts and at other prominent locations in the community. This basically means we will be allowed to join other municipalities in going out to bid to set a lower more favorable rate on our residents' and businesses' electricity supply.

The Selectmen declared the week of October 18th as Domestic Violence Awareness week, and November 13th as World Pancreatic Cancer Awareness Day. Our annual Veteran's Day services will be held on November 11th on the Common from 8am to 2pm, and we encourage you all to join us as we honor our veterans.

At their October 13th meeting, the Selectmen approved the FY17 Budget Policy Directive which is available at the following link: [FY17 Budget Policy Direction](#).

I am pleased to announce that nationally-renowned planner and author Randall Arendt will be speaking in Westford on Monday evening October 26th, from 7pm until 9pm at the Stony Brook School Auditorium on Farmer's Way. Mr. Arendt is known for illustrating ways to preserve open space and protect rural New England character. He made a presentation in Westford in the 1990s which led to some significant improvements in our zoning bylaws and regulations. His visit prompted some local developers to become advocates of Open Space subdivisions. "The Long Trail" which extends from Mystery Spring to Cider Mill Pond, was a consequence of Randall Arendt's influences in Westford.

The Communications Advisory Committee successfully negotiated a ten year license renewal agreement with Comcast, which the Selectmen unanimously approved on August 25th. Comcast also agreed to several side agreements, including a discount to eligible Westford Senior Citizens of a \$2.00 per month off the Digital Starter package. To qualify, residents must be at least age 65 or older, head of household, and receiving SSI or Medicaid. This discount is only available during the first 90 days of the Comcast license renewal starting September 1st, so please call as soon as possible if you qualify. Over the term of the agreement, Comcast will also provide \$100,000 in capital payments to help support Westford Community Access Television.

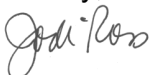
Westford was just rated as the [13th Safest 'City'](#) in Massachusetts.

There are several openings on other local boards and committees, including the Affordable Housing Committee, Communications Advisory Committee, Cultural Council, Economic Development Committee, Finance Committee, Historical Commission, and others, and I urge you to peruse our website for information about the work of these committees. If you have interest, please complete a Citizen's Activity form at this link: [Citizen Activity Form](#) or stop by and fill out a form in the Town Manager's office.

Would you like more detailed information on Board of Selectmen meetings? Click the following links to access: [Board of Selectmen Documents](#) & [Board of Selectmen Meeting Videos](#).

I hope to see you at town meeting.

Sincerely,



Jodi Ross



Council On Aging - Coming Events

HARVEST FAIR

Friday & Saturday, Oct. 23 & 24, from 8 a.m.- 2 p.m.

Start your holiday shopping early! Come enjoy a day of camaraderie at this fun event, sponsored by the Friends of the Cameron Senior Center.

There's something for everyone: handmade and quilted items, penny sale, wonderful baked goods, jewelry, Cameron Senior Center apparel, white elephant table, raffles, silent auction and food (hot dogs, soda, donuts & coffee).

Proceeds support programs and services of the Cameron Senior Center.

The public is welcome to rent a table – just \$15! Call 978-692-5523 for an application.

Volunteers needed for set-up Thursday, Oct. 22, at 12:30 p.m.

and clean-up Saturday, Oct. 24, at 2 p.m.



CHECK SMOKE & CARBON MONOXIDE DETECTORS

Cameron Senior Center and Westford Fire Department are partnering to assist seniors who need help changing smoke & carbon monoxide detector batteries.

If you require assistance, call the Cameron at 978-692-5523.

You will be notified when the Fire Department is available.

Please do not call the Fire Department.

If you live in a condo, your condo association should take care of this for you.

Please note that smoke detectors should be replaced every 10 years.

HEALTH INSURANCE INFORMATION DAY - Wednesday October 21

We are hosting an informational day for seniors and families to come learn about health insurance options. Currently, a representative from Fallon Senior Health is coming Wednesday, Oct. 21, from 1-3 p.m. We plan to get other insurance reps for this day. The goal is to provide members and non-members with plan updates and an opportunity to ask questions. Please call 978-692-5523 to sign up.

To view the complete
Council On Aging Newsletter
please visit our website at:
www.westfordma.gov/coa and click on
[Newsletters.](#)



Westford Senior Center

J. V. Fletcher Library News

The Assistant Directors Book Corner

Are you ever frustrated or even despondent when you can't decide what book to read next? Please ask for help at the Library, some of us **live** to do "Reader's Advisory." But if your time is limited, we have created, subscribed to and collated a vast variety of resources to help you in your quest for the "next."

Some resources that are available in the Library (besides Library staff) include: the Library's New Titles Room where you can browse through just-published works of Adult Non-Fiction, Biography, Fiction and Large Print Fiction (the room also features a *Staff Recommends* table that is replenished daily;) in the Periodicals Area many patrons like to pick up a complimentary copy of the "BOOK PAGE" to peruse in one of our comfy chairs or to take home for later. Throughout the Library genre/or format-oriented displays are set up with material that compliments upcoming programs or celebrates the current season of the year.

If you are at home or at work, check out our website Homepage! Sign up to receive "WOWBRARY," a weekly email that describes the new titles that have been added to certain collections each week, or watch the graphical "Book Train" move across the top of the Homepage (click on any book and you will be taken to the online catalog where you can immediately place a hold on that title. From the Horizontal menu at the top of the Homepage choose the "Reader's Resources" link – once there you can sign up for

"what shall I read next" newsletters, join an online, genre-oriented Book Club, search the Novelist database for "Author Read-Alikes" and so much more. One of my favorite resources is the "eSequels" database. When I get hooked on an author (or a series) I can find a list of all of the titles (in chronological order) which then can be printed out and referred to so I always know, for a short time anyway, what I'll be reading next!



Health Department News

Flu/Pneumonia Clinic Schedule - Westford Residents Only

The Westford Health Department will sponsor flu/pneumonia clinics on the dates, times and locations listed below. No appointments are necessary. ** Please note that because of limited pediatric vaccine, we request that those under the age of 36 months receive their vaccine from their MD if possible. All children under 18 years must be accompanied by a parent at all clinics. Please bring insurance information to the clinic as the town can seek reimbursement from insurance carriers.

Regular Flu clinics

| | | |
|-------------|---------------------|------------|
| October 28: | 6:00 pm- 8:00 pm | Millennium |
| October 30: | 10:00 am – 12:00 pm | Library |
| November 6: | 10:00 am – 12:00 pm | Library |

Homebound individuals, who require a home visit, should contact the Health Department at 978-692-5509 to schedule an appointment.

School-based flu clinics *will* be offered again this year to all Westford Public School students in November. The FluMist Quadrivalent* nasal spray will be the only form of vaccine offered. Details (including dates and restrictions) will be sent to parents via the WPS Billboard listserv, WPS Superintendent's email, and the Westford Board of Health listserv. Information will not be mailed to the students' homes.

These vaccines will not prevent illness caused by other viruses. It takes up to 2 weeks or more for protection to develop after the vaccine. Protection lasts about a year. Anyone with an allergy to egg cannot receive this vaccine at one of our public clinics.

Annual influenza vaccine is recommended for **everyone 6 months of age and older**. Everyone, regardless of prior vaccination, will need to be revaccinated to be protected this year.

People at Increased Risk for Influenza-Related Complications:

- ♦ All children 6 months through 4 years of age.
- ♦ All persons > 50 years of age.
- ♦ People 6 months - 18 years of age who are receiving long-term aspirin therapy.
- ♦ Women who will be pregnant during influenza season and postpartum women.
- ♦ People > 6 months of age who have:
 - Chronic pulmonary (including asthma), cardiovascular (except hypertension), renal, hepatic, neurological, hematologic, or metabolic disorders, including diabetes; Immunosuppression (including immunosuppression caused by medications or HIV); Any condition (e.g., cognitive dysfunction, spinal cord injuries, seizure disorders, or other neuromuscular disorders) that can compromise respiratory function or the handling of respiratory secretions or that can increase the risk of aspiration.
- ♦ Residents of nursing homes and other chronic-care facilities.
- ♦ American Indians/Alaska Natives
- ♦ People who are morbidly obese (BMI > 40)

To get up to date information during the flu season,
visit the Health Department website at www.westfordma.gov/health
or sign up for our Health Department listserv at www.westfordma.gov/subscriber

Health Department News (continued)

Light Up The Night Domestic Violence Prevention Event

Please join us at the Stony Brook Auditorium on October 20, from 7-9 pm, as we remember victims of domestic violence with our annual Light up the Night program and vigil. The program is co-sponsored by Live for Liv and Westford Coalition for Non Violence.

Westford Academy Playwriting Students have collaborated with Directing I and Acting II Students to construct and produce monologues and scenes that will continue the dialogue about the realities of and the people affected by Domestic Violence. The Honors Choir of upperclassmen singers will be singing songs of support for anyone going through difficult times. Maria Crooker from Alternative House will also provide a short program on teen abuse. The night will end with a candlelight vigil.

During the weekend the town common will be lit up in purple to bring attention to Domestic Violence week and to remember those who have lost their lives to domestic violence.



Eastern Bank Donates \$2500 To Two Local Domestic Violence Prevention Groups

Eastern Bank donated \$2,500 each to the Westford Coalition for Non-Violence, and Live for Liv Foundation in recognition of their efforts in educating the public about domestic violence. For 2015, the special focus of Eastern Bank Charitable Foundation's Targeted Grant program is Violence Prevention including domestic violence prevention. As they point out "violence, in all its forms, is a serious public health problem both locally and across the United States. From infants to the elderly, it affects people in all stages of life."



Paul Playe of the Westford branch of Eastern Bank delivers ceremonial checks to Sandy Collins, Health Director and Chair of the Westford Coalition of Non-Violence and Jodi Marchand, founder of Live for Liv Foundation.

Health Department News (continued)

Its TICK Fall Season....Create a Tick-safe Zone to Reduce Ticks in the Yard

In our community, deer ticks are a primary concern. 30-50% of deer ticks carry the bacteria that causes Lyme disease, and the risk is higher in the adults we encounter in the fall and early spring.

These ticks also carry a few other disease causing organisms such as [Anaplasmosis](#), [Babesiosis](#), and [Powassan Virus](#).

While many assume cool weather means less bugs, adult deer ticks thrive in these conditions and can even remain active AFTER the first frost. We highly encourage you to stay vigilant through the end of the tick season when temperatures drop below freezing consistently or heavy snow cover remains.

The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station has developed a comprehensive [Tick Management Handbook\[PDF - 8.53 MB\]](#) for preventing tick bites. Here are some simple landscaping techniques that can help reduce tick populations:

- Remove leaf litter from your yard and along the perimeter of your property.
- Clear tall grasses and brush around homes and at the edge of lawns.
- Place a 3-ft wide barrier of wood chips or gravel between lawns and wooded areas to restrict tick migration into recreational areas.
- Mow the lawn frequently.
- Stack wood neatly and in a dry area by discouraging rodents.
- Keep playground equipment, desks, and patios away from yard edges and trees.
- Discourage unwelcome animals (such as deer, raccoon, and stray dogs) from entering your yard by constructing fences or spraying repellents. Do not feed deer.
- Remove old furniture, mattresses or trash from the yard that may give ticks a place to hide.

Learn more from www.cdc.gov/ticks



Recent Tick education day at Jack Walsh Field

Health Department News (continued)

Upper Merrimack Valley Medical Reserve Corps Honored For Volunteer Efforts

Seventy members of the Upper Merrimack Valley Medical Reserve Corps celebrated their annual Appreciation Dinner at the Chelmsford Senior Center on September 29. Members were recognized for



the many hours of volunteer service given to their community. The group enjoyed a 7-minute video recap of their activities over the past twelve months: [Upper Merrimack Valley Medical Reserve Corps 2015](#). The guest speaker, Lesa Gulbicki, RN/MSN, described her experiences as a first responder and emergency preparedness professional.



Recycling Commission - Fall Dates

Brush Chipping Event

Saturday, October 17, 2015, from 10:30 am – 4:30 pm
Westford Highway Garage, 28 North Street

- **Proof of Westford residency required.**
- **Accepted:** Brush and branches up to 3 inches in diameter and 10 feet in length. Must be average residential brush categories and reasonable amounts: A load ranges from a trunk to pickup truck volume, includes tow behind a full trailer.
- **Not accepted:** Building materials (e.g. fences, boards), land clearing materials and debris (e.g., roots, bushes, anything mixed with poison ivy), grass, and leaves.
- **Cost:** \$10 per load, checks preferred, payable to the Town of Westford.

Update on Westford Electronics Collection, Held on September 19, 2015

Northeast Materials collected a total of 91,413 lbs. Consisting of 11,091 lbs. of TV's/monitors, 244 lbs. of car seats, 876 lbs. of propane tanks, 26,043 lbs. of electronics and 55,159 lbs. electronics and metals in dumpsters. **Thank you for keeping these items out of the trash!**

America Recycles Day, November 15, 2015

For more information, visit www.AmericaRecyclesDay.org. There is an option to add your name to the Pledge to Recycle More with 63,455 others.

REDUCE, REUSE, AND RECYCLE

Please see our website www.westfordma.gov/recycling for answers to your recycling questions or contact Susan Thomas at 978-692-1027.



Leaf Collection

Saturday, November 7th & December 5th, 2015

Acme Waste Systems will be collecting leaves.

- **The cost is \$1.25 per bag with a minimum charge of \$20.00 per pick up.**
- **Call the Town Clerk's office at 978-692-5515 to register.**
- **Place your leaves, grass clippings and pine needles into paper leaf bags and have them at the curb by 7 AM on the collection day.**



- **REMEMBER - Leaves will not be picked up if they are not in paper leaf bags.**
- **You pay Acme directly by attaching a check [payable to:
Acme Waste Systems to One of Your Leaf Bags on Collection Day.**